

Application No. 09/911,656
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 3, 6 and 8 is respectfully acknowledged.

New independent claim 10 corresponds to the allowable subject matter of (now canceled) claim 3 rewritten in independent form. New independent claim 17 is a method claim corresponding to the allowable subject matter of new independent claim 10. And new independent claim 24 has been prepared to recite the allowable subject matter of new independent claim 10 in means-plus-function form.

New claims 11 and 12 depending from new independent claim 10 have been prepared based on the subject matter of (now canceled) claims 6 and 8.

New claim 13 depending from new independent claim 10 has been prepared based on the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 8, lines 4-12, page 14, lines 2-7, and page 15, lines 6-17.

New claim 14 depending from claim 13 has been prepared based on the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 17, line 13 to page 18, line 23.

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New claim 15 depending from claim 13, and new claim 16 depending from claim 15, have been prepared based on the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 8, lines 4-12 and page 19, line 5 to page 21, line 5.

And new claims 18-23 correspond to the subject matter of claims 11-16 depending from new independent method claim 17, and new claims 25-30 correspond to the subject matter of claim 11-16 depending from new independent "means-plus-function" claim 24.

No new matter has been added, and no new issues with respect to patentability have been raised.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that new claims 10-30 be approved and entered. And it is respectfully submitted that new independent claims 10, 17 and 24, and claims 11-16, 18-23 and 25-30 respectively depending therefrom, are all in condition for immediate allowance.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to make a minor clarifying amendment, in accordance with the description in the specification at page 8, lines 6-10. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered.

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CLAIM FEE

The application now contains 21 claims, of which only 3 are independent. Accordingly, a claim fee in the amount of \$50.00 for the addition of 1 extra claim in total is attached hereto. In addition, authorization is hereby given to charge any additional fees which may be determined to be required to Account No. 06-1378.

* * * * *

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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